

Bell companies operate an "essential facility", and should have to accommodate other ISP firms that wish to purchase access from them. This wholesale provisioning will stimulate competition and be of benefit to the consumers. To not do so would cripple the '96 Telecom Act. Chairman Powell: Please do not sell out to BIG BUSINESS, at the expense of competition and the small businesses of our country.

Not all CLECs are exclusively in the business of reselling local telephone service. For Internet Service Providers, often working on very small profit margins, this is the difference between closing and staying in business. When the Independents close, all that will be left are the MicroSoft Networks and AOLs. We, the American people deserve better than that.